GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:465
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2003
PRICE CONTROL OF LIFE SAVING DRUGS
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the drugs that have been put in the list of Life Saving Drugs;

(b) whether some drugs which were earlier in the list of Life Saving Drugs have been removed from the list resulting in tremendous increase in their prices;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Supreme Court has issued any direction to the Government to lay down the criteria to bring essential and life saving medicines under price control; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)to(e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 465 FOR 23.4.2003

(a) At present, 126 drugs are categorized as life saving drugs for purposes of import vide notification No.26/2003-customs dated 1.3.2003. These are exempt from customs duty.

(b)&(c): Some drugs which were earlier exempt from Customs duty and had started being manufactured indigenously were deleted from this list in March, 2002. In order to provide reasonable incentives to the domestic manufacturers of these drugs, a basic customs duty of 5% was proposed on their import.

In view of there being indigenous production of these drugs, the question of tremendous price increases should not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The issue is under inter-ministerial consultation for appropriate action.